

Dorchester County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Attracts business
- Test scores do not indicate what is really going on; yet affect by attracting or turning away
- Drop out rate – industry needs trainable employees
- Vocational training
- If schools fail, then community fails – and vice versa – they go hand in hand
- National honors
- Our children are employable
- Quality of life enables to keep children in schools – early identification and intervention
- Education achievements
- Achievement (variety of measures)
- Increased parental involvement
- Test scores compete nationally
- Workforce for future each generation wanting more

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Early intervention – get them young
- Emotional support
- Early intervention is key (5 hour vs. 1000 hour reading stat)
- The diverse population – levels of intelligence, motivation, and ability requires different tracks
- Early literacy
- Need the money to keep up with growth
- To learn what are successful schools doing?
- “Buy in” for all our children to improve
- Outreach links
- Technical education – work to change concept and perception

Challenges:

- Resources – volunteer time for children
- Community support
- Seeing extension of home in schools
- Retention
- Class sizes are still too large
- Motivate business and faith communities to get into the process; they have a great stake in the outcome
- Support from higher education
- After school programs
- Tech support

Strengths

- (none listed)

- 3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
- Comprehensive high school
 - Tracks for academic, vocational difference
 - Community schools – school/education has to be made relevant to the community
 - Host
 - Midland Park program
 - Americorps
 - Girls/boys club
 - Business partnerships
 - Sports programs
 - Early intervention programs (special education)
 - 4-year-old programs
- 4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
- Need volunteers
 - Faith based initiatives in schools
 - Neighborhood association
 - First steps program (0-3 years critical – what is community doing to reach those “broken” homes).
 - Parent education
 - Neighborhood based community program
 - Faith community link
 - Grandparent programs
 - Child care
 - Schools a welcome centers
 - Presentations geared to all audiences (involve parents as presenters)
 - Transportation
 - Address safety concerns
 - Communication